

HA-1361

Between 1898 & 1904

Harris House  
43 E. Broadway  
Bel Air  
private

Without its shingles, the Harris House would be a typical L-shaped house of the turn of the century. Two similar houses were built in 1899 on Roland Avenue. They have shiplap siding and fish scale shingles in the front gables and project a more formal appearance than does this house. The warm brown shingles, a 20th century addition, give it an air at once shaggy and informal. It does not put itself forward, but retreats to the privacy of its lot.

With the enormous popularity of the Shingle Style elsewhere in the Country, the wonder is that it did not catch on in Bel Air, but it did not. Some bungalows were built after World War I and a few houses were shingled, notably two on Broadway. Possibly the style, like that of the fully irregular Queen Anne, was too informal for Bel Air's tastes.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA-1361  
1313615704

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Harris House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

43 E. Broadway

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☒ PUBLIC

☐ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ MUSEUM

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ PARK

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ MILITARY

☐ OTHER: rental

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Martha McCormick et al c/o Cameron & Reed

Telephone #: 838-7575

STREET & NUMBER

30 Office Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21014

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

HA-1361

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This small, L-shaped, shingle house is at 43 E. Broadway, in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. According to a niece of a former owner, the shingles were added later. It is a two and a half story gable roofed house with its ell facing the street. A three part window occupies the front gable. It has a slender single pane flanked by 1/1 double-hung sash windows of the same proportion. The rest of the windows are 1/1 with a wooden lintel. A pair of these windows occupy the second story of the ell. The entrance is in the back building in the west elevation. In 1904 there was only a west side porch. Today the porch is L-shaped, across the front and along the west side until it reaches the back building. It has a hipped roof carried on stock turned posts. It has a plain balustrade with access on the west side of the porch. A small back porch occupies the east bay of the south (rear) elevation.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

NA-1367

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      between 1898 & 1904      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This small house was built between 1898 and 1904 by Joseph and Ellin (Ellen) Harris on a lot they bought in 1898 from the estate of A. Preston Gilbert, Bel Air attorney, for \$500 (94/17). Gilbert's house was on Main Street next to this lot on Broadway. According to the Harford Democrat for September 3, 1897, he intended to build the next spring, but according to the same source for July 1, 1898, he moved into Mr. Heuer's new house (the Heuer-Corbin House, 611 N. Main). According to Miss Mary Harris Hall, niece of the Harrises, Heuer rented his new house until it had been paid for. (She also says that the house was originally ship-lap sided and the shingle was added later.) The house was built by 1904, because it appears on the Sanborn Map of that year.

The Harrises sold the property in 1907 to Ida W. Hunter for \$1000 (122/54). Mrs. Hunter was the daughter of Edwin H. Webster. She had purchased the Gilbert House, which came to be called the Lee House after her daughter Caroline (Mrs. John L. G. Lee). That house was demolished to make way for the Acme Market. The Harrises bought the house two doors to the east (53 E. Broadway) where they lived the rest of their lives. They left it to their nieces who own it today.

Mrs. Hunter died in 1932. Her son-in-law, John L. G. Lee, bought both this house and the Home Place, but William Harlan, the executor of Mrs. Hunter's estate, neglected to convey before his death in 1942. Glasgow Archer, Jr., became the executor, but before the court case was decided, Mr. Lee died (1945). Mrs. Lee finally got title by 386/521. The owners are now Martha McCormick and her sister.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1904, 1930 Sanborn Maps  
Harford Democrat

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #538 in the Town of Bel Air, 45' x 160'

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marilynn Larew, Architectural Historian

19 October 1979

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

39 Hickory Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST 21 STATE CIRCLE SHAW HOUSE ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET Individual Structure Survey Form		SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1361  NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:  UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing  U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:  PRESENT FORMAL NAME: House	
COUNTY: Harford TOWN: Bel Air		ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME: Harris House	
LOCATION: 43 E. Broadway		PRESENT USE: rental unit ORIGINAL USE: private residence ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:	
COMMON NAME: House		BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:	
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: private residence		PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent( ) Good(X) Fair( ) Poor( )	
OWNER: Martha McCormick, c/o Cameron & Reed ADDRESS: 30 Office Street Bel Air, Md.		THEME: Architecture STYLE: Vernacular	
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes( ) No( ) Restricted(X)		DATE BUILT: Between 1898 & 1904	
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local(X) State( ) National( )			
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System 1. Foundation: Stone(X) Brick( ) Concrete( ) Concrete Block( ) 2. Wall Structure A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam( ) Balloon( ) B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick( ) Stone( ) Concrete( ) Concrete Block( ) C. Iron( ) D. Steel( ) E. Other: 3. Wall Covering: Clapboard( ) Board and Batten( ) Wood Shingle(X) Shiplap( ) Novelty( ) Stucco( ) Sheet Metal( ) Aluminum( ) Asphalt Shingle( ) Brick Veneer( ) Stone Veneer( ) Bonding Pattern: Other: 4. Roof Structure A. Truss: Wood( ) Iron( ) Steel( ) Concrete( ) B. Other: 5. Roof Covering: Slate( ) Wood Shingle( ) Asphalt Shingle(X) Sheet Metal( ) Built Up( ) Rolled( ) Tile( ) Other: 6. Engineering Structure: 7. Other: Appendages: Porches(X) Towers( ) Cupolas( ) Dormers( ) Chimneys(X) Sheds( ) Ells(X) Wings( ) Other: Roof Style: Gable(X) Hip( ) Shed( ) Flat( ) Mansard( ) Gambrel( ) Jerkinhead( ) Saw Tooth( ) With Monitor( ) With Bellcast( ) With Parapet( ) With False Front( ) Other: Number of Stories: 2½ Number of Bays: 2 Approximate Dimensions: 20' x 30'			
THREAT TO STRUCTURE: No Threat( ) Zoning( ) Roads( ) Development(X) Deterioration( ) Alteration( ) Other:		LOCAL ATTITUDES: Positive( ) Negative( ) Mixed( ) Other:	

## ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

L-shaped shingles added later  
 front gable 3 part window 1/1, single pane, 1/1  
 windows 2/2 with wooden lintel double in front  
 plain cap chimneys  
 porch L-shaped (formerly only w side) hipped  
 roof on stock turned posts, plain balustrade -  
 access w side entrance in back building, w elev.  
 back porch on e bay of s elev.

## RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Harris family built it - before 1904

## REFERENCES:

## MAP: (Indicate North in Circle)



## SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane( ) Woodland( ) Scattered Buildings( )  
 Moderately Built Up( ) Densely Built Up( )  
 Residential( X ) Commercial( X )  
 Agricultural( ) Industrial( )  
 Roadside Strip Development( )  
 Other:

Marilynn Larew

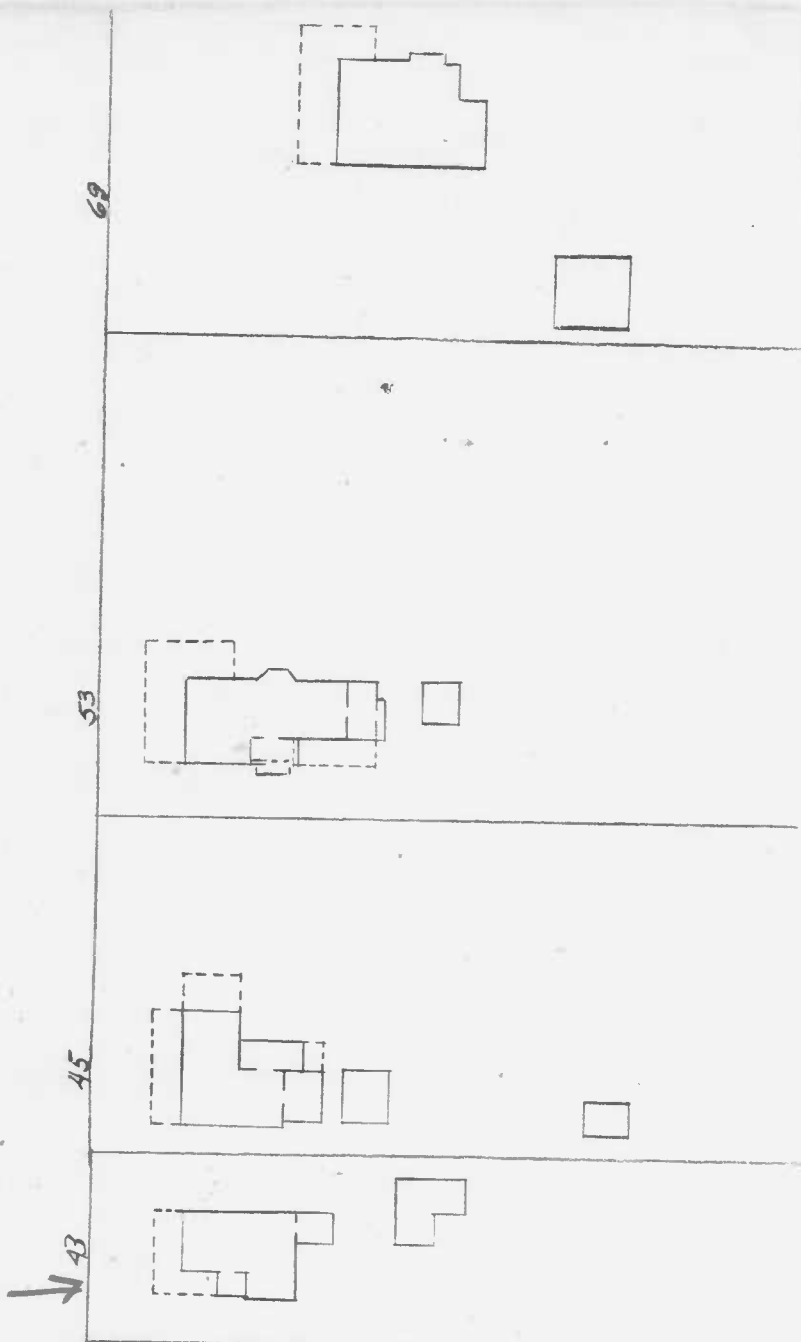
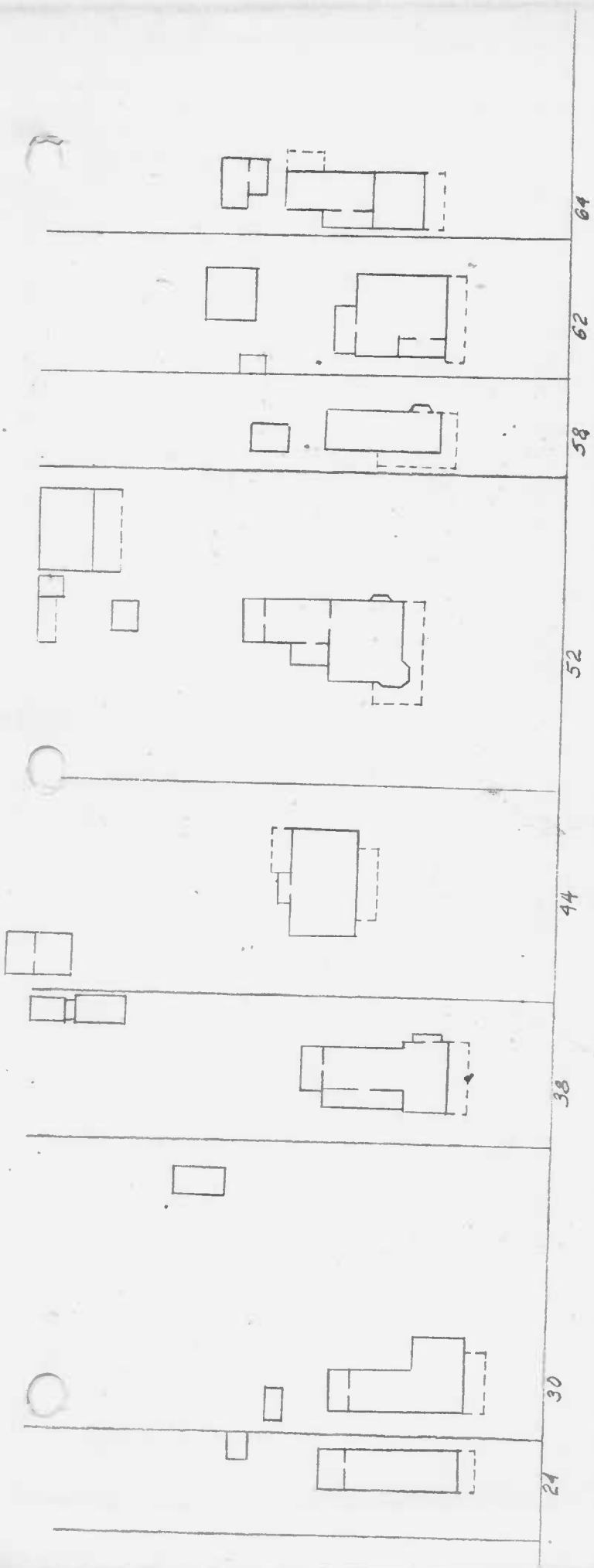
RECORDED BY:  
 Town of Bel Air

ORGANIZATION:  
 19 October 1979

DATE RECORDED:







Harris House  
43 E. Broadway  
Bel Air

HA-1361

1930 Sanborn Map



HA- 1361 Harner House, 43 E. Broadway, Bel Air  
n + w side  
M. Larew, 1979